

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An air mattress comprising:

a first inflatable compartment having a first layer, a second layer, a strip extending from the first layer to the second layer such that the strip defines substantially straight, vertically extending sides defining a height of the first inflatable compartment, and a periphery defining a length and a width, said strip forming an air-impervious wall of the first inflatable compartment;

a second inflatable compartment having at least one additional layer and extending generally said length and width of said periphery, said second inflatable compartment being tufted, said second inflatable compartment having a vertical extent substantially less than the height of the first inflatable compartment; and

a perimeter seal connecting said first inflatable compartment to said second inflatable compartment, wherein said perimeter seal is recessed from said periphery;

wherein said second layer forms a boundary surface between said first inflatable compartment and said second inflatable compartment and contains a plurality of fluid communication channels between said first compartment and said second compartment, said fluid communication channels providing fluid communication between the first and second inflatable compartments to enable fluid in one of the first and second inflatable compartments to flow into the other of the first and second inflatable compartments.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously amended) The air mattress as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second inflatable compartment further comprises a second additional layer between said one additional layer and said first inflatable compartment, said second additional layer being sealed to said second layer of said first inflatable compartment adjacent to said plurality of fluid communication channels.

4. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second inflatable compartment further comprises a plurality of discontinuous seals.

5. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second inflatable compartment further comprises a plurality of attachments.

6. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a layer of cushioning material within said second inflatable compartment.

7. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 6, wherein said layer of cushioning material is selected from the group consisting of foams, gels, and liquids.

8. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a valve between said first inflatable compartment and said second inflatable compartment.

9. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a valve in said first inflatable compartment.

10. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 9, further comprising a pump connected with said valve.

11. (currently amended) An air mattress comprising:

a first inflatable compartment having a first layer, a second layer, and sides with a length and a width and defining a periphery, the sides being formed by a substantially

straight, vertically extending strip extending from the first layer to the second layer, said strip being air-impervious;

a second inflatable compartment having at least one additional layer and extending generally the length and width of the periphery, said second inflatable compartment being tufted, said first and second inflatable compartments having substantially different heights;

a plurality of ribs extending from the first layer to the second layer of the first compartment;

a perimeter seal connecting said first inflatable compartment to said second inflatable compartment, wherein said perimeter seal is spaced a distance from the periphery; and

a fluid communication channel between said first inflatable compartment and said second inflatable compartment, said fluid communication channels providing fluid communication between the first and second inflatable compartments to enable fluid in one of the first and second inflatable compartments to flow into the other of the first and second inflatable compartments.

12. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 11, wherein said second inflatable compartment further comprises a plurality of discontinuous seals.

13. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 12, further comprising a layer of cushioning material within said second inflatable compartment.

14. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 13, wherein said layer of cushioning material is selected from the group consisting of foams, gels, and liquids.

15. (currently amended) An air mattress comprising:

a first inflatable compartment having a first layer, a second layer, a strip extending from the first layer to the second layer such that the strip defines sides, the length of the strip defining a height of the first inflatable layer, and a periphery defining a length and a width, said strip being air-impervious;

a second inflatable compartment having at least one additional layer and extending generally said length and width of said periphery, said second inflatable compartment being tufted, said second inflatable compartment having a vertical extent substantially less than the height of the first inflatable compartment; and

a layer of cushioning material in one of said first inflatable compartment and said second inflatable compartment, wherein the other of said first inflatable compartment and said second inflatable compartment is inflated but does not contain a layer of cushioning material;

wherein said second layer forms a boundary surface between said first inflatable compartment and said second inflatable compartment and contains a plurality of fluid communication channels between said first compartment and said second compartment, said fluid communication channels providing fluid communication between the first and second inflatable compartments to enable fluid in one of the first and second inflatable compartments flow into the other of the first and second inflatable compartments.

16. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 15, wherein said layer of cushioning material is selected from the group consisting of foams, gels, and liquids.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously amended) The air mattress as set forth in claim 15, wherein said second inflatable compartment further comprises a second additional layer between said

one additional layer and said first inflatable compartment, said second additional layer being sealed to said second layer of said first inflatable compartment adjacent to said plurality of fluid communication channels.

19. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 15, further comprising a perimeter seal connecting said first inflatable compartment to said second inflatable compartment, wherein said perimeter seal is recessed from said periphery.

20. (original) The air mattress as set forth in claim 15, further comprising a valve between said first inflatable compartment and said second inflatable compartment and a pump in fluid communication with said valve.